COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2017

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Harvey Wheeler meeting room. CSEC members present were Brad Hubbard-Nelson (chair), Bill Lehr (clerk), Alan Whitney, Julie Kleyn, Sam Lines, and Gilda Gussin. Committee members Doug Sharpe, Annie Moore and Janet Miller were unavailable. Also present were Alice Kaufman, Pamela Cady, and Greg Proulx.

See Slides (attachment #1, includes Agenda as first slide).

1. Welcome visitors and meeting logistics

- CSEC welcomed Julie Kleyn and Sam Lines as new committee members, and Greg Proulx who was visiting.
- Alan Whitney moved that CSEC accept the July 18th meeting minutes as revised and Gilda Gussin seconded. CSEC unanimously approved the motion. (See attachment #2).
- Next meetings October 10, November 14, and December 12. Bill Lehr will miss the October 10 and December 12 meetings due to prior commitments.

2. Chair report

- CSEC is currently at full strength. Annie Moore will be leaving CSEC because she is moving from Concord. The committee acknowledged her strong support for the newsletter and participation in CSEC's work.
- Brad reported on several meetings. He met with Kate Hodges, assistant Town Manager. She is actively interested in CSEC activities and manages the sustainability fund, and it is expected that the new Sustainability Director will be reporting to her. Other meetings were with Alice Kaufman, David Wood and Jan Aceti. The Heat Smart program and proposal was discussed. It was reported that the applicant pool for the new Director of Sustainability is impressive with 160 applicants.
- Kate Hodges indicated that CSEC's budget is \$40k from the sustainability fund and is targeted to support Cooler Concord rebates and marketing. This is substantially less than was originally requested, necessitating scaling back of rebate programs.
- The summer interns Clayton Hafer and Claudia Baptista completed their work and returned to school after doing a great job for CSEC. CSEC decided not to seek an intern for the fall. It was noted that Pamela Cady played an important role in managing interns over the summer.
- Brad noted that the budget process is coming up and so we need to consider what CSEC might do to use funds productively.

3. Announcements

- The Long Range Planning committee, <u>Envision Concord Bridge to 2030</u> (envisionconcord.org) is seeking comments by September 29 (see Attachment #4). CSEC agreed we should submit comments. Bill Lehr and Alan Whitney agreed to take the lead to draft a letter on behalf of CSEC. It was agreed that the mission should be optimistic but bold.
- CMLP Light Board meeting will be 7:30am tomorrow at the Light Plant, with discussion of solar.
- Bill proposed the following motion be presented at CMLP meeting: "CSEC voted to encourage CMLP move forward expeditiously to encourage and/or deploy additional municipal solar in Concord and move forward with plans to deploy energy storage solutions at a utility scale level on both municipal and commercial buildings. The storage needs to be coupled with renewable energy such as solar to be eligible for tax credits." Gilda seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by CSEC. Kearsarge had proposed plans to deploy solar PV at the Beede Center and High School. Light plant needs to adjust distribution grid to accommodate increased solar deployments. After April 1, 2018, municipal projects will not be eligible for SRECs and Concord won't be eligible for new SREC program.
- Saturday at Town House (9am-12pm) will be training on how to run meetings, role of town boards, etcetera.

4. HeatSmart program (application due September 15th)

- Communities or adjacent groups of communities can participate to promote adoption of multiple sources of technologies. We selected air source heat pumps. CMLP does not have rebates for ground-source geothermal and these are more significant investment so including these in Concord version of program seems ill-advised at this time. (See Attachment #5).
- Funding is \$6,000 per Town since we are co-applying with 3 Towns to MassCEC for the funding (Carlisle and Lincoln).
- CMLP has enhanced the Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) rebate (\$625 per ton of capacity for qualifying equipment), which is more than 2x what prior typical rebate was.
- We will track who installs what so will know how much heat pump capacity was installed as part of the program which should enable CSEC to estimate green house gas savings.
- Proposal is to get about 50 houses to convert from fuel oil transitioning to heat pumps. It covers both duct and non-ducted heat pumps. In addition to converting target homes, heat pump program has additional goals of encouraging adoption of ASHP technology, encourage development of reliable installer capacity. One analysis of meeting GWSA Target Projection would be to get 13% of MA houses converted by 2030.

- Proposal is almost complete and Select Board voted to support on 9/11/2017. CMLP and Schools are supporting program. ConcordCAN, Mothers Out Front, and others are planning to support in multiple ways. Jan Aceti has provided significant support for program.
- Alan, Sam, and Julie are committing as volunteers to support the program.
- Brad drafted a letter to MassCEC endorsing Concord's participation in the program. Sam moved that Brad sign the letter as presented and Bill seconded. CSEC approved that Brad sign and submit the letter on behalf of CSEC, with a vote of 5 to 0 (see Attachment #6). Note: Gilda Gussin abstained from the vote, which she explained to the chair following the meeting, to avoid potential conflict of interest should she have the opportunity to participate as a contractor in any work relating to the program.

5. Quiet Communities mower swap event, September 23rd

• The Lawn Mower swap event is scheduled for September 23 from 9am-1pm and is being led by Jill Appel, with help from Clayton Hafer. Quiet Communities (Jamie Banks) and Home Depot are collaborating to help organize the event. Concord Public Works (CPW) is hosting it at Keyes Road. 80 residents are pre-registered and paid a deposit for mowers. Up to 20 more can get rebates or pick up mowers at discount prices. Tomorrow afternoon at 3pm logistics meeting at CPW.

6. Cooler Concord

- RE: Budget -- Brad presented the updated budget which is reconciled to reduced budget of \$40k (see slides).
- RE: communications Three newsletters have gone out already. MailChimp has 545 subscribers and we are anticipating a September newsletter and Julie will help with that. Goal will be to remind folks about website, say something about heat-pump rebate, article of fall landscaping, remind folks of mower swap, and remind folks about electric vehicle events nearby. Want to expand community. Currently doing mini-announcements through churches and schools.
- RE: website www.coolerconcord.org. Well-received but traffic low. Approved way Town is acknowledged by Kate Hodges. It is not yet linked to CSEC home page. This needs to be updated and keep site up to date.
- RE: rebate programs Pam Cady said only 12 rebate applications received thus far and none processed yet. Average rebate applied for is \$391/applicant. See slide.
- RE: Heat Pump Assessments Brad presented Claudia's model for estimating benefits of heat pumps with historic weather data and fuel prices to forecast savings. Looked at 2008 data and CMLP price for electricity of \$0.18/kwh and oil prices from \$2.50-\$4.00/gal. Completed analysis for 4 homes and predicted retrospective savings. Using older data the savings were substantial but for last year only about \$100-\$200 since oil prices low. The GHG savings were very substantial. Electric resistance heat (that not ETS program) and propane are best financial candidates, Oil is next, and Natural Gas is worst.

7. CSEC Committee Roles

- Gilda Gussin presented a proposal for how CSEC should organize its work (see Attachment #3). Gilda presented her thoughts on expectations for CSEC members' committee roles and the shared management plan. CSEC members were broadly supportive of the suggested model and greatly appreciated the effort to clarify roles. It was agreed that this is very helpful resource for introducing new CSEC members and will be helpful to the new Sustainability Manager in framing discussions of how best to work with CSEC.
- CSEC discussed whether its focus should be on reducing residential emissions, or might be broader. It was noted that CSEC might have special capabilities in focusing on residential behavior and emissions, but that CSEC may also have a role to play with Green Communities (municipal emissions) and other special projects. CSEC agreed that we should continue to discuss the roles. The functional committee roles that Gilda identified were recognized as important.

8. Public comments

N/A

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Lehr, CSEC clerk

List of Attachments

- 1) CSEC 170912 slides.pdf
- 2) 2017-07-18 CSEC meeting minutes final.docx
- 3) Cooler Concord Management Plan9 12.pdf
- 4) FINAL CLRPC cover letter to committees.pdf
- 5) Attachment A Proposal Checklist and Application Template--REVIEW DRAFT 2.01-bhn.docx
- 6) Letter of Commitment for HeatSmart Mass-CSEC.docx